



Welcome Back to School!!

Check out some back-to-school resources and upcoming events happening at Ellis School.

Dear Ellis School Families,

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer. We are looking forward to a rewarding 2009-2010 school year. To ensure success of our students it is important that we keep strong the home-school connection. It is vital for parents to encourage and promote their student’s success. Here are some resources and events happening at Ellis School:

**Opening Cookout:** On *Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>*, Ellis School will be holding a Back-to-School Cookout from 4:30-6:30 at the school. This will be a great opportunity to help transition students back to school, re-connect with Ms. Lewis, elementary principal and meet Mr. Safina, middle school principal and Bill Lander our new superintendent.

**Parent/Student Handbook:** Each student will receive a handbook containing policies and procedures at Ellis School. We ask that you take the time and read it together as a family. It contains vital information for students to be successful. Use it as a reference guide all year. There is an acknowledgment page at the back of the book that we ask you to sign and return to the school.

**PBIS Parent Handbook:** As you know, Ellis School has seen great success with our school-wide behavior program, PBIS. A team has been working over the summer to refine our Parent Handbook. This book will provide parents and students with the basics of how PBIS works in our school. It isn’t merely an explanation of the “rules” and what happens to students once they break them. The book will clearly define the function of the target and universal teams and how they positively support behaviors and students at Ellis School.

**Newsletter:** Ellis School will send out a newsletter monthly. This year we hope to create separate newsletters for Elementary and Middle school. This will make the newsletter more pertinent to the targeted student. Other informational items will go home during the month from administration, and teachers. At the middle school level we will be sending home an additional monthly newsletter called, *Middle Years*. It is a publication for parents of middle school students to strengthen the home-school connection. It is intended to show parents *how* to improve their children’s school success—and behavior—during the middle years.

**Middle School Parent Forum:** Middle school parents will be invited monthly to a parent forum. This is an informal discussion with the principal held at the school. This is open to all middle school parents. Look for information and dates to come out in September.

**Elementary School Parent Forum:** Elementary parents will be invited monthly to parent forums and informational meetings. Some topics include: how to support your child in Everyday Math, reading and writing skills, information about our science programs and child development. This is open to all parents in the elementary grades. Look for information and dates to come out in September

**A Few ideas to get ready for school:**

- Start by putting your student on a schedule the week before school starts. Begin by going to sleep and getting up the time you want them to when school begins.
- Don’t go crazy with school supplies and clothes; just buy what is on the list or what your student needs now. New outfits are not mandatory for learning! Go through old school supplies and see what they can re-use. Items like back packs, pens, pencils, etc can all be used again.
- Check your child care arrangements make sure all plans are set
- Anxiety, assure your student the next grade is a continuation of the one they just left! The first 6 weeks teachers will be reviewing, setting procedures and establishing the classroom community. They will have plenty of time to get to know the teacher and their classmates.
- Establish good eating habits, breakfast is essential, healthy snacking is important.
- Have your students continue to read, practice math facts and be encouraged to be observant and curious about the world around them.
- Remind your student when riding the bus to stay seated and quiet.
- Look for back to school information being mailed soon, please fill out all forms and return them with your student the first day.
- All immunizations must be up to date.
- Bus routes will be posted the week before school starts at the school and on the web site.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conferences will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to work together for student success. Please look for the information on how to set up an appointment with your child’s teacher coming out in October.

**Give us a call:** Please feel free to contact your child’s administrator or teacher at anytime. You can do so through email or phone. A full list of emails and phone extensions are available in your Parent/Student Handbooks.

Have a wonderful school year,

Dawn Lewis  
Elementary Principal

John Safina  
Middle School Principal